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County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

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BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE MAPPING REQUIREMENTS

Updated: 6/4/2002

1. Extent of Mapping Required

- a) Project Parcel Boundary plus 100' Biological Resource mapping must include the entire project parcel plus 100 feet onto adjoining property. In rare cases where a project only affects a small portion of a large parcel the need to map the entire parcel may be waived. If you wish to pursue this waiver contact the project Environmental Analyst with the Department of Planning and Land Use.
- b) Off-site Improvement Areas: Any offsite improvements required of the project that may result in biological resource impacts (e.g., road improvements) may need to be mapped in accordance with these requirements. If the project requires offsite improvements, contact the project Environmental Analyst with the Department of Planning and Land Use for direction on mapping requirements.
- c) Off-site Biological Mitigation Areas: If off-site biological mitigation is proposed and such off-site area is not part of a formally adopted mitigation bank, the proposed areas may also need to be mapped in accordance with these requirements. If the project proposes offsite mitigation, contact the project Environmental Analyst with the Department of Planning and Land Use for direction on mapping requirements.

2. Base Map Requirements

- **Base Map** Biological Resource mapping must be completed using a base map that includes:
 - the most recent project plot plan including all utility, road and other easements,
 - the proposed maximum limits of disturbance for the project, including fire clearing, construction staging areas etc.
 - Proposed Biological Open Space/Conservation Easements and "limited building zone" easements located adjacent to biological open space easements used to limit the extent of fire clearing of biological open space easement areas. As a general rule, the Biological Open Space/Conservation easement areas must be designed so that fire clearing will not occur within the boundaries of the proposed easement.
 - topography (County topographic data is sufficient),
 - major roads and major road names.
 - both proposed (solid lines) and existing (dashed lines) parcel/lot lines,

- Assessor Parcel Numbers.
- North arrow,
- Scale.
- b) **Scale** Acceptable scales are 1" = 20' through 1"=200'. The maximum allowable size of the map sheet is 48" x 36". Regardless of the scale used, the map must be legible. If the scale and the quantity of information on the map render the map illegible or overly complex, the map scale should be reduced or the information should be divided between the base map and an "overlay" map.
- c) Multiple Sheet Maps Biological Resource Maps must be one contiguous sheet of the entire project parcel(s) unless, given the scale and legibility limitations described above, a project's parcel size prohibits the use of a single sheet map less than (a maximum project parcel dimension of approximately 9000' x 6500'). In the rare occasion that the map cannot be placed on a single sheet, a multiple sheet map is acceptable. All multiple sheet maps must have a larger scale, single sheet index map showing the relationship of all detail sheets. Each detail map sheet must meet all of the requirements listed in this document, be of a consistent scale.
- d) Registration Points (applies only to multiple sheet maps or maps that do not include an entire parcel boundary)
 - Registration points are surveyed points on a map sheet that allow the
 accurate digitizing of map data. Registration points are not required on
 single sheet maps that show the entirety of the project parcel do not require
 surveyed registration points because parcel corners can be used to accurately
 digitize single sheet maps.
 - Each map sheet of a multiple sheet map must have a minimum of 4 registration points.
 - The index map for a multiple sheet map must also have a minimum of 4 registration points which allow cross referencing with the smaller scale detail maps.
 - All registration point coordinates must be clearly labeled in California State Plane coordinates, North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83)
 - Registration points must be dispersed over the map and distributed in a non-linear arrangement to give maximum two-dimensional offset (e.g., at the four corners of the map).
- e) Submittal Requirements: For initial and other draft submittals, five (5) copies of the Biological Resource Map will need to be submitted. Upon finalization, multiple additional copies will be required based upon public review. Additionally, although not required, it is preferred that maps be submitted in digital format in addition to the hardcopy required above. Should a digital file be submitted, it must be in either AUTOCAD or ARC/INFO. For AUTOCAD files, drawing files (.DWG files) in versions 12, 13, or 14 may be submitted. Do not submit .DXF files. For ARC/INFO, the acceptable format must be ARC/INFO coverages exported as ARC/INFO export (.e00) files. The coverages must have an item in the PAT identifying the Holland vegetation habitat code (character field with a width of five). All digital files must be registered in State Plane, NAD 83 coordinates.

2. Habitat Identification

- a) Required Habitat Classification System:
 - All Biological Resource maps and studies must use the latest San Diego Regional Holland code classification system for vegetation communities.
 - A Holland Classification must cover all areas on the project.

- The map legend must reference both the Holland numeric code as well as the Holland vegetation community name.

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- References:
 - Holland, R. F., 1986, *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California*. Nongame-Heritage Program, State of California, Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA, 157 p.
 - Oberbauer, T., 1996, Terrestrial Vegetation Communities in San Diego County Based on Holland's Descriptions, San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA, 6 p. (attached)
- b) **Mixtures Of Habitat Components:** Where vegetation contains a mixture of component and indicator species from two or more Holland vegetation communities, the indicator species that appears with the greatest vegetation coverage must be used to identify the vegetation community.
- c) Burned Habitat: Areas recovering from fire shall be mapped utilizing the resurgent vegetation as indicators of the probable resultant habitat. When the fire is so recent such that no new vegetation has emerged yet, historical evidence, such as aerial photos, will be used to map the habitat that once existed.
- d) Previously Graded/Cleared Lands:
 - **Illegal Grading/Clearing:** Areas graded or cleared without the legal authority to do so shall be mapped as the vegetation type that was previously present based on County records and regardless of the time that has lapsed since the clearing. Historical evidence, such as aerial photography or the County's vegetation mapping information, must be used to determine the habitat that once existed.
 - Legal Clearing Related To Prepare the Land for Development: Areas legally graded or cleared in preparation for the proposed project shall also be mapped as the habitat that existed prior to the clearing unless previous environmental review was conducted and appropriate mitigation applied. The reason for this is that the California Environmental Quality Act requires the County to assess the "whole of the proposed project" which includes activities completed preparation for the project. Examples include geotechnical testing, well drilling/testing, surveying, and recent (less than 5 years prior to project application) clearing or grading (including agricultural clearing or grading) completed without a clear documented purpose. Historical evidence, such as aerial photography or the County's vegetation mapping information, must be used to determine the habitat that once existed.
 - **Legal Clearing:** Areas graded or cleared with the legal authority that are not related to preparing the land for development may be mapped as the existing disturbed, agriculture, or as the appropriate habitat type, as required.
- e) Additional Habitat Identification Information: While Holland gives information regarding habitat attributes, the following additional guidance shall be followed in determining the proper code for when disturbed, non-native grassland, agriculture, coastal sage-chaparral scrub, and native grassland classifications:

Disturbed: Only those lands meeting <u>all</u> of the following characteristics may be identified as "disturbed":

- Land that has been permanently altered by previous legal human activity including grading and/or repeated clearing for fuel management purposes or shows evidence of being built upon.
- The land must show evidence that the previous disturbance has eliminated all future biological value of the land for most species. Some species will persist in an urban environment (i.e. house sparrow, etc.) and should not be included in this analysis.

- No native or naturalized vegetation remains.
- The land does not exhibit moderate to high value for sensitive wildlife, including foraging potential for raptors.

Non-native grassland: Non-native grassland will be identified when the indicator species are present, including *Avena*, *Bromus*, *Erodium*, *Brassica* and many other broadleaf herbaceous species. When a discrepancy exists as to how to classify the habitat (between non-native grassland, disturbed or agriculture), the following criteria shall cause the land to be identified as non-native grassland:

- The land does not exhibit moderate to high value for sensitive wildlife, including foraging potential for raptors.
- Vegetation has a non-native grassland component.
- Documented rodent activity and/or raptor foraging.
- Potential wildlife habitat for small mammals and/or reptiles.
- An agricultural crop (current or recently fallow) does not dominate the habitat.

Agriculture: Any lands that currently support an agricultural operation will be classified as agriculture. Orchards, groves and field/pastures left fallow for any length of time may now support non-native grassland or other native habitat. The absence of active agricultural activity, such as irrigation or harvesting, for three years is considered a general guideline after which the land may support habitat suitable for sensitive species. However, some agricultural lands will go fallow after a much shorter time. Refer to the definition of non-native grassland for guidance in identifying the habitat of fallow agricultural land.

Coastal sage-chaparral scrub: Coastal sage scrub and southern mixed chaparral are identified by the dominant indicator species present. In cases where the two habitats are co-dominant and at least 50% of the habitat is indicative of coastal sage scrub, then the habitat shall be labeled as "coastal sage-chaparral scrub".

Native Grassland: Rarely will native grassland be confused with disturbed or agricultural lands. However, there is often a debate as to how to delineate native and non-native grassland, particularly when one often occurs as one or more patches within a larger expanse of the other. Native grassland should be identified when *Nasella* and other native herbs including *Sanicula*, *Sidalcea*, *Sisirynchium*, *Eschscholzia* or *Lasthenia* are present. The percentage cover of Native species at any one time may be quite low. An area qualifies as native grassland if there is more than a 20% cover of native perennial species.

3. Sensitive Species, Other Habitat Features and Wetland Mapping Requirements

- a) Sensitive Species: Locations/areas of observed sensitive plant and animal species must be identified on the map. Sensitive species locations/areas should not be delineated from, but included within the mapped habitat classification that surrounds the sensitive species locations/areas.
- b) **Significant Habitat Features:** Habitat features such as caves, rock outcroppings or cliff faces, must be identified. It is understood that many of these features do not have a unique Holland Classification. Therefore, while these significant habitat feature areas must be included a valid and appropriate Holland Classification must nonetheless identify all areas mapped. Habitat features should not be delineated from, but included within the mapped habitat that surrounds the feature (usually as some form of crosshatching).

c) Wetlands: County, State and Federally defined wetlands and waters of the U.S. may be included within several Holland vegetation communities. These communities are typically riparian in nature, such as southern coast live oak riparian forest and southern willow scrub. However, a wetland or waters of the U.S. may occasionally be within a vegetation community that is normally considered upland, such as a coastal sage scrub vegetated drainage. The boundaries of all wetlands and waters of the U.S. must be mapped in addition to the vegetation/habitat per the Holland Codes. This can usually be accomplished using crosshatching or similar methods. In all cases, the treatment of land considered wetlands and waters of the U.S. should follow wetlands standards and guidelines, at the County, State and Federal level, regardless of the overlying vegetation type.

The following is the RPO definition verbatim, taken directly from RPO:

All lands which are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or where the land is covered by water. All lands having one or more of the following attributes are "wetlands":

- At least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes (plants whose habitat is water or very wet places);
- The substratum is predominantly undrained hydric soil; or
- The substratum is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by water at some time during the growing season of each year. (A "Non-soil" substrate includes, but is not limited to, rock outcroppings, deepwater habitats (generally greater than 6.6 feet in depth), cobble rock, bedrock, or scoured channels.)

The above definition of wetlands is based on the same basic attributes (hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, hydrology) as those of the CA Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), although those agencies do have definitions with slightly different language and requirements.

Simplified Method of Wetlands Mapping: This method may be used in most cases where riparian vegetation, areas of potentially hydric soils and drainage features with a defined bed and bank are/will be largely avoided through project design and the applicant wishes to minimize processing costs. The mapping of wetlands and/or waters of the U.S. can often be completed with site visits and review of aerial photographs, and topographical, vegetation and soil maps. <u>Under this method</u> wetlands and/or waters of the U.S. are conservatively identified to extend to the outermost limit of riparian vegetation (canopy drip line or scrub line boundary), hydric soils, or the defined bed and bank of a drainage feature, whichever is greatest.

Formal Method of Wetlands Mapping: A formal wetland delineation may be completed under the following conditions 1) there may be extensive impacts (both direct and indirect) to or within the immediate proximity of identified wetlands and waters of the U.S, 2) the project applicant believes that using the simplified method of wetlands mapping results in too conservative delineation of the extent of wetlands, 3) there is disagreement between the County and the individual completing the delineation. Under this method the delineation must conform to the *Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual*) understanding that the County definition of a wetland definition differs from the federal and State of California definitions. The boundaries of all wetlands and waters of the U.S., as defined by each

of the agencies, must be clearly identified. When a formal wetland delineation is completed, a separate wetland delineation map is required in addition to showing the extent of wetlands on the vegetation map.

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d) **Wetland Buffer:** The Boundary of all wetland buffers must be mapped in addition to the vegetation/habitat per the Holland Codes. This can usually be accomplished using crosshatching or similar methods. The RPO definition of a wetland buffer taken directly from RPO is as follows:

Lands which provide a buffer area of an appropriate size to protect the environmental and functional habitat values of the wetland, or which are integrally important in supporting the full range of the wetland and adjacent upland biological community.

Generally, the County requires buffers of a minimum of 25 feet and a maximum of 200 feet. The following factors must be considered in determining the appropriate width of the buffer: existence of hydrophytic vegetation, condition of the existing wetland, whether the wetland/buffer serves as a wildlife corridor, existence of sensitive species, connectivity and condition of the wetland up and down stream.

Terrestrial Vegetation Communities in San Diego County Based on Holland's Descriptions

Suggested by Thomas Oberbauer (revised February 1996)^{1,2}

10000	NON-NATIVE HABITAT		VEGETATIO	N, DEV	ELOPED	AREAS,	OR	UNVEGETATED	
	11000	Non-Nati 11100 11200 11300	ve Vegetion Eucalyptus Disturbed V Disturbed F	Vetland					
	12000	Urban/De	Developed						
	13000	Unvegeta 13100 13200 13300 13400	13120 13130 13140	Marine 13111 13112 Bay 13121 13122 13123 Estuarine 13131 13132 13133 Freshwater ated Chann		ay	e Fringe		
	18000	General A 18100 18200 18300	Extensive A 18310	griculture -	- Dairies, No - Field/Past are	urseries, Chie ure, Row Cr		anches	
20000	DUNE COMMUNITY								
	21000	Coastal Dunes 21100 Active Coastal Dunes (occurred at one time but now nearly extirpate 21200 Foredunes 21230 Southern Foredunes (tiny fragments remaining in Im Beach and Los Peñasquitos Lagoon)							
	22000 Desert Dunes								

¹Bold indicates current revisions to Holland. ²Asterisk indicates prior revisions to Holland (see May 1995 version).

22100 Active Desert Dunes (very little in Borrego Valley) Stabilized and Partially-Stabilized Desert Sand Field (mostly in the 22300 eastern part of Borrego Valley; may be large enough to map from aerials) 24000 Stabilized Alkaline Dunes* 29000 ACACIA SCRUB* 30000 SCRUB AND CHAPARRAL 31000 Coastal Bluff Scrub 31200 Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub (mappable on Point Loma and Torrey Pines State Park) 32000 Coastal Scrub 32400 Maritime Succulent Scrub (Point Loma, etc.) 32500 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub 32510 Coastal form* 32520 Inland form (>1,000 ft. elevation)* 32700 Riversidian Sage Scrub Riversidian Upland Sage Scrub (scrub on Banner Grade may 32710 fit this category) 32720 Alluvial Fan Scrub 33000 Sonoran Desert Scrub Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub 33100 33200 Sonoran Desert Mixed Scrub 33210 Sonoran Mixed Woody Scrub 33220 Sonoran Mixed Woody and Succulent Scrub 33230 Sonoran Wash Scrub* 33300 Colorado Desert Wash Scrub* 33500 Calcicolous Scrub* 33600 Encelia Scrub* 34000 Mojavean Desert Scrub 34300 Blackbush Scrub (micro locations on eastern edge of mountains) 35000 Great Basin Scrub 35200 Sagebrush Scrub 35210 Big Sagebrush Scrub 36000 Chenopod Scrub Desert Saltbush Scrub 36110 36120 Desert Sink Scrub (in Borrego sink) 37000 Chaparral 37100 Upper Sonoran Mixed Chaparral 37120 Southern Mixed Chaparral 37121 Granitic Southern Mixed Chaparral 37122 Mafic Southern Mixed Chaparral (occurs on Las Posas and Boomer soils) Northern Mixed Chaparral* 37130 Granitic Northern Mixed Chaparral* 37131 37132 Mafic Northern Mixed Chaparral* 37200 Chamise Chaparral Granitic Chamise Chaparral* 37210

			37220 Mafic Chamise Chaparral*					
		37300	Red Shank Chaparral (near Campo and Chihuahua Valley)					
		37400	Semi-Desert Chaparral (same as Desert Transition Chaparral; occurs in areas like Jacumba)					
		37500	Montane Chaparral					
			37510 Mixed Montane Chaparral					
			37520 Montane Manzanita Chaparral					
			37530 Montane Ceanothus Chaparral					
			37540 Montane Scrub Oak Chaparral					
		37800	Upper Sonoran Ceanothus Chaparral					
			37810 Buck Brush Chaparral					
			37830 Ceanothus crassifolius Chaparral					
		37900	Scrub Oak Chaparral					
		37A00	Interior Live Oak Chaparral					
		37B00	Upper Sonoran Manzanita Chaparral					
		37C00	Maritime Chaparral					
			Southern Maritime Chaparral (occurs in coastal San Diego County and has been described as Coastal Mixed Chaparral)					
		37G00	Coastal Sage-Chaparral Scrub					
		37K00	Flat-topped Buckwheat*					
	oran Subshrub Scrub							
40000	GD 1 GGT							
40000	GRASSL	LANDS, VE	RNAL POOLS, MEADOWS, AND OTHER HERB COMMUNITIES					
	42000	Valley and Foothill Grassland						
		42100	Native Grassland					
			42110 Valley Needlegrass Grassland					
		42200	42120 Valley Sacaton Grassland Non-Native Grassland					
		42200	Wildflower Field (this is actually a subset of the above, but would be					
		42300	pertinent in the Cuyamaca Lake and Mataguay Valley areas)					
		42400	Foothill/Mountain Perennial Grassland*					
		42400	42470 Transmontane Dropseed Grassland*					
	44000	Vernal Pool						
	11000	44300	Southern Vernal Pool					
			44320 San Diego Mesa Vernal Pool					
			44321 San Diego Mesa Hardpan Vernal Pool (northern					
			mesas)					
			San Diego Mesa Claypan Vernal Pool (southern mesas)					
	45000	Meadow and Seep						
		45100	Montane Meadow					
			45110 Wet Montane Meadow					
			45120 Dry Montane Meadows					
		45300	Alkali Meadows and Seeps					
			45320 Alkali Seep					
		45400	Freshwater Seep					
	46000	Alkali Play	aya Community					
		46100	Badlands/Mudhill Forbs*					

60000

70000

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52000	Marsh ar	nd Swamp						
22000	52100 Coastal Salt Marsh							
		52120 Southern Coastal Salt Marsh						
	52300	Alkali Marsh						
		52310 Cismontane Alkali Marsh						
	52400	Freshwater Marsh						
		52410 Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh						
		52420 Transmontane Freshwater Marsh (San Felipe Creek)						
		52430 Montane Freshwater Marsh						
		52440 Emergent Wetland						
RIPARI	AN AND I	BOTTOMLAND HABITAT						
61000	Dinarian Foresta							
01000	Riparian Forests 61300 Southern Riparian Forest							
	01300	61310 Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest						
		61320 Southern Arroyo Willow Riparian Forest						
		61330 Southern Cottonwood-willow Riparian Forest						
	61500	Montane Riparian Forest						
		White Alder Riparian Forest (Cold Spring in the Cuyamaca						
		Mountains)						
	61800	Colorado Riparian Forest						
		61810 Sonoran Cottonwood-willow Riparian Forest (Coyote						
		Canyon)						
		Mesquite Bosque (Borrego Sink)						
62000	Riparian	Woodlands						
	62200	Desert Dry Wash Woodland						
	62300	Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland						
	62400	Southern Sycamore-alder Riparian Woodland (Pauma and Pala areas)						
63000	Riparian Scrubs							
02000	63300	Southern Riparian Scrub						
		63310 Mule Fat Scrub						
		63320 Southern Willow Scrub						
	63500 Montane Riparian Scrub							
	63800	Colorado Riparian Scrub						
		63810 Tamarisk Scrub						
WOOD!		63820 Arrowweed Scrub						
WOODI	LAND							
71000	Cismonta	ane Woodland						
	71100	Oak Woodland						
		71120 Black Oak Woodland (Cuyamaca and Mesa Grande)						
		71160 Coast Live Oak Woodland						
		71161 Open Coast Live Oak Woodland						
		71162 Dense Coast Live Oak Woodland						
		71180 Engelmann Oak Woodland						
		71181 Open Engelmann Oak Woodland						
	71200	71182 Dense Engelmann Oak Woodland						
	71200	Walnut Woodland 71210 California Walnut Woodland (migra locations occur such as						

California Walnut Woodland (micro locations occur, such as

71210

in De Luz)

72000 Pinon and Juniper Woodlands Peninsular Pinon and Juniper Woodlands 72300 72310 Peninsular Pinon Woodland 72320 Peninsular Juniper Woodland and Scrub 75000 Sonoran Thorn Woodland Elephant Tree Woodland (micro locations such as Indian Wash) 75100 77000 Mixed Oak Woodland* Undifferentiated Open Woodland* 78000 79000 Undifferentiated Dense Woodland* 80000 **FOREST** 81000 **Broadleaved Upland Forest** 81100 Mixed Evergreen Forest (Palomar Mountain) 81300 Oak Forest 81310 Coast Live Oak Forest 81320 Canyon Live Oak Forest (may be represented in San Diego County in some form but apparently is intended for more northern areas) Black Oak Forest (as described in Holland represents 81340 apparent patches of oak in the midst of coniferous forests) 83000 Closed-cone Coniferous Forest Coastal Closed-cone Coniferous Forest 83100 83140 Torrey Pine Forest (not actually a closed cone pine) 83200 Interior Closed-cone Coniferous Forest 83230 Southern Interior Cypress Forest (83330, typo in original Holland document) 84000 Lower Montane Coniferous Forest Coast Range, Klamath and Peninsular Coniferous Forest* 84100 Coulter Pine Forest 84140 84150 Bigcone Spruce (Bigcone Douglas Fir)-Canyon Oak Forest

84200 Sierran Coniferous Forest

84230 Sierran Mixed Coniferous Forest

84500 Mixed Oak/Coniferous/Bigcone/Coulter*

85000 Upper Montane Coniferous Forest

85100 Jeffrey Pine Forest